etc. It is not possible to bring all the trains to the platforms adjacent to the entry/exit point of the stations due to operational limitations. Regarding inter platform connectivity, platforms are normally connected through foot over bridges/sub ways for the use of passengers. For the use of old and handicapped passengers, trolley path have been provided at the end of the platforms of important stations which have been authorized for use with escorts.

Doubling of Bibinagar-Nadikudi rail line

1308. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to approve the proposal to double the railway line from Bibinagar to Nadikudi along with electrification in view of heavy demand from passengers and in view of several Express trains already running on this single line;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) If not, the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey for doubling of Bibinagar-Nadikudi-Nallapadu was completed in 1998-99. As per the survey, cost of doubling of 243 kms. long line was assessed as Rs. 340.37 crore with a rate of return of 0.97% . In view of the unviable nature of the proposal, heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and severe resoruce constraints, the proposal was not taken up. As regards electrification, electrification of various sections is taken up in priority of traffic density of the route. The section between Bibinagar-Nadikudi will be taken up for electrification as and when it becomes due.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of underground railway underpass

1309. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to the Konkan Railway

Corporation to construct an underground railway underpass for crossing of people from one side of the track to other side at Pedda, Margao-Goa;

(b) whether the plan of the tunnel has been approved;

(c) the amount contributed by the State Government in this regard;

(d) by what date the construction is likely to commence; and

(e) the period within which, construction is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government have proposed to the Konkan Railway Corporation to construct an underground railway underpass for crossing of light vehicles from one side of the track to the other side at Pedda, Margao-Goa on Deposit Term Basis.

(b) The General Arrangement drawings of the proposed underpass have been approved. The design and detailed drawings are under finalization.

(c) The State Government has deposited an amount of Rs. 207.89 lacs towards the construction of the underpass as a 'Deposit Work'.

(d) Soil investigations have been conducted. The execution of the work is likely to commence by the end of September 2006.

(e) Around 8 months' period for completion of this work is envisaged.

Passenger halt at Nalconagar

†1310. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received or any demand has been raised to provide a passenger halt at Nalconagar in the Angul district of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken, so far, in this direction, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Demands have been received for provision of a passenger halt at Nalconagar. The same have been examined and not found financially viable.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.